

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 22 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 20, please replace the text as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

Figure 2 is a block diagram illustrating a decision-support system implementing one embodiment of the present invention. As shown, system 200 includes one or more decision-support modules 201a-210n that communicate with one or more user modules 214a-214n via network 212. Optionally, as designated by dotted lines, system 200 may include a medical module 216 and a third party module 218—with which decision-support modules 210a-210n and user modules 214a-214n may communicate. Additionally, medical module 216 and the third party module 218—communicate one with another.

In the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 1, please replace the text as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

According to another aspect of the present invention, system 200 optionally includes third party module 218. The ~~F~~third party module 218—represents the various other modules that may communicate with decision-support module 210, user modules 214a-214n, and medical module 216. For example, the third party module 218—may represent a medical provider, an insurance carrier, a referred clinician, a referring clinician, a third party paging service, and the like. In this manner, a clinician may communicate with outside sources to obtain approval for services and/or give information

to the outside sources. For example, system 200 may allow decision-support module 210 to communicate with an insurance carrier, health care management organization (HMO), or other similar health care provider to received authority to give a recommended medical treatment. One skilled in the art may identify various other third parties that may obtain benefits from the present invention.

In the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 10, please replace the text as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

According to another aspect of the present invention, medical module 216 includes ancillary modules₂₅₆. Ancillary modules₂₅₆ includes one or more other modules that represent various hardware and/or software modules of the individual departments within the medical facility, such as the hospital or clinic, and there associated connection to medical module 216 and network 212. As illustrated, ancillary modules₂₅₆ may include a pharmacy module 260, laboratory module 262, administration module 264, radiology 266 and the like.

In the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 3, please replace the text as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

One skilled in the art may identify various other modules that may be included within ancillary modules₂₅₆. For example, ancillary modules₂₅₆ may include computer physician entry systems, other order entry systems, and the like.